

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:
6719 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204
HOUSTON, TX 77019
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:
420 WEST 19TH STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77008
(713) 961-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:
4300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 200
HOUSTON, TX 77020
(713) 227-7740

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am submitting a programmatic funding request on behalf of the Houston Independent School District's (HISD) HISD-Rice Planetary Project for fiscal year 2023 to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the amount of \$1,983,322.

This funding will be used to strengthen the Houston community's pipeline of students who are engaged in planetary sciences that leverages NASA, JSC, Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI), Museum of Natural Science and Rice University partnerships with Houston ISD (HISD), we propose a scaffolded approach that engages elementary through graduate students in exciting, interwoven programming. The impact on the 18th District is that the project will provide early experiences in planetary sciences and provide opportunities to students that would not otherwise exist. The benefits of the proposed program would be increased diversity in STEM programs, early exposure to college culture, new STEM career interest, as well as improved academic performance. Schools in this district have STEM programming primarily focused on engineering and robotics. Exposure to planetary sciences and access to entities such as NASA will further prepare students for future careers relative to their community.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in any of these projects.

Very truly yours,



Sheila Jackson Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS